



REGULAR MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DE BEQUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

DE BEQUE FIRE STATION
NOVEMBER 12, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Pursuant to notice, the regular board meeting of the De Beque Fire Protection District (the District) was called to order by Board President Tanner at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

OPEN WITH PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL/ESTABLISH QUORUM:

Cynthia Farris, Present; Melanie Hansen, Present; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Present; Annette Tanner, Present. A quorum was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Forest Matis, De Beque District Fire Chief; Lieutenant Triston Quigley; Lieutenant Nate Voorhees; Secretary Kim Latham.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

No Additions or deletions to the Agenda were made, but under Old Business #1, Wage Gap Presentation was moved to the Public Hearing discussion regarding the Wage Schedule for 2025. Motion was made by Board Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Board Member Farris to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

BEGIN PUBLIC HEARING: Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to go into Public Hearing for the purpose of presenting and discussing the 2025 Budget for DFPD. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

1. Discussion ensued regarding the Tabor/Gallagher information received from the District attorney. While the attorney presented information on the new regulations implemented from special session meetings this summer, it is still not clear what the regulations entail regarding tax mill levies.
2. Secretary Latham presented the response from the District auditor regarding protocol on including the beginning fund balances in the budget. His recommendation is to continue to include all funding in the budget as we have done in the last few years and carry over unused amounts to the next budget year.
3. Chief Matis presented the 2025 budget for consideration and comment. It is noted that there are now two sections at the end of the budget – one that shows the intended usage of specific capital



expense monies for 2025, and the second that shows the rest of the capital expense funds, which include funds already allocated but not expected to pay out in the 2025 budget year, along with funds that are not allocated but available for use as needed. This split section shows the money expected to be spent in 2025, and the remaining funds and how they are allocated.

4. Chief Matis presented various options for the 2025 employee wage schedule for consideration for a COLA increase. Lieutenant Quigley presented hard figures and various options for addressing the wage gap between ALS and BLS employees. Discussion ensued with various options for COLA for all employees and wage gap increase for BLS employees. Options included a wage gap adjustment for BLS employees at 9%, the goal amount; a wage gap adjustment of 4-5% in 2025 and another adjustment of 4-5% in 2026; a wage gap adjustment of 3% in 2025, a 3% in 2026, and a 3% in 2027; and flexible options depending on tax funding revenue estimates in future years.
5. There were no Public Comments.

END PUBLIC HEARING: Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Vice President Ramthun to exit the Public Hearing for the purpose of presenting and discussing the 2025 Budget for DFPD. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

RESOLUTIONS FOR 2025 BUDGET:

1. Resolution 2025-01 – To set mill levy certification for Garfield County. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to approve the mill levy certification for Garfield County. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.
2. Resolution 2025-02 – To set mill levy certification for Mesa County. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to approve the mill levy certification for Mesa County. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.
3. Resolution 2025-03 – To adopt the 2025 budget. Motion was made by Board Present Tanner and seconded by Board Member Farris to adopt the 2025 budget. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Nay; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.
4. Resolution 2025-04 – To appropriate funds for the 2025 budget. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to appropriate funds for the 2025 budget. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.
5. Resolution 2025-05 – To approve beginning balance fund usage. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to approve usage of fund balance funds as needed. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.



6. Resolution 2025-06 – To Approve a wage schedule for 2025 to include a 3% COLA increase for all employees, and a 3% wage gap increase for BLS provider employees. Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Member Farris to approve the 2025 wage schedule to include a 3% COLA increase for all employees and a 3% wage gap increase for BLS employees. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

MINUTES:

Minutes were presented to the BOD for consideration for the regular board meeting of October 14, 2024. Motion was made by Board Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Board President Tanner to approve the minutes for October 14, 2024 as presented. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

FINANCE REPORTS

Financial Reports were presented to the BOD for September 2024. Motion was made by Board Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Board Member Farris to approve the finance reports for September 2024 as presented. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

Insurance Write-Offs/Write-Downs in the amount of \$9,690.14 for September 2024 were presented to the board. Motion was made by Board Vice President Ramthun and seconded by Board Member Farris to approve the insurance adjustment write-down and write-offs in the amount of \$9,690.14 for September 2024. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Aye; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) The Wage Gap Presentation by Triston Quigley was completed in the Budget Hearing section of the meeting.
- 2) Trane Update. The system was working after the most recent repairs, but now the thermostats are throwing error codes, so we are still having issues. We are holding about \$39,000 in payments to Trane for the repairs until the system is functioning correctly. A new system estimate given by A-1 Heating and Cooling came in at about \$350,000.
- 3) Ladder Update is postponed pending information from Germany regarding parts and repairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

- 1) Chief Matis was absent for a few days due to a health issue.
- 2) The Christmas party is booked for December 14, 2024.
- 3) Fire Deployment billing has been initiated and we are awaiting approval and payment.



- 4) The District had a surprise ISO (compliance) inspection, which went pretty well. There were some issues with the town water system not having the flows that we should, which will be addressed by the town, and we will begin yearly hydrant inspections.
- 5) The District ambulance call volume is down by about 30% from last year through October.
- 6) Options for replacing the District air compressor are being considered. There might be some grant options available.
- 7) The District will be burning some structures up Clear Creek in the next few months.
- 8) The District roadside signs are now fixed.

CREW UPDATES: Lieutenant Quigley reported he is working on information about the wall picture project.

OTHER COMMENTS:

BOARD COMMENTS: Board President Tanner commented about cobwebs around the station and requested some housekeeping be done to get rid of them.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Board President Tanner and seconded by Board Secretary Hansen to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Cynthia Farris, Aye; Melanie Hansen, Aye; Dustin Koehler, Absent; Maria Ramthun, Aye; Annette Tanner, Aye. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Monday, December 9, 2024.

Approved by the De Beque Fire Protection Board of Directors on December 9, 2024



Annette Tanner, President

Melanie Hansen, Secretary

Board of Directors:

Board President Annette Tanner
Board Vice President Maria Ramthun
Board Secretary Melanie Hansen
Board Member Cynthia Farris
Board Member Dustin Koehler

It is noted that Board Member Cynthia Farris is also on the Board of Directors for the Town of De Beque. It is noted that the dual Board positions might be considered a conflict of interest in the event of interaction between the De Beque Fire Protection District and the Town of De Beque.